

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 00326 201650Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0326

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:: 3,4&, NO

SUBJ: IEA NORWEGIAN ADHERENCE TO LONG-TERM PROGRAM

REFS: (A) OSLO 281 (B) STATE 012729 (C) STATE 13806

1. I SAW FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLIN ON JANUARY 20 ABOUT

NORWEGIAN ADHERENCE TO THE IEA LONG-TERM PROGRAM.
FRYDENLUND REPEATED DIFFICULTIES NORWAY WOULD HAVE WITH
OUT-RIGHT ADHERENCE TO PROGRAM AT JANUARY 29 IEA MEETING
BUT TOLD AMBASSADOR RAVNE, WHO WAS ASLO PRESENT, TO SEEK
FOR USE AT MEETING AGREEMENT WITHIN NORWEGIAN
GOVERNMENT TO AS POSITIVE A STATEMENT AS POSSIBLE ON
LONG-TERM PROGRAM AND NORWEGIAN INTENTIONS TO ADHERE TO

IT.

2. RAVNE SUBSEQUENTLY ADVISED E/C COUNSELOR AFTER MY

MEETING WITH FRYDENLUND, THAT HE HAD MET WITH OTHER INTERESTED
MINISTRIES ON LONG-TERM PROGRAM. ALSO PRESENT WAS

BJORN BARTH, WHO IS COUNSELOR AT NORWAY'S EMBASSY
IN BRUSSELS AND WHO HAS BEEN CALLED BACK TO OSLO FOR
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PAGE 02 OSLO 00326 201650Z

CONSULTATIONS ON THE MATTER. AT MEETING, LONG-TERM

PROGRAM WAS REVIEWED ARTICLE OH ARTICLE.

3. RAVNE SAID THAT TOMORROW, JANUARY 21, BARTH WILL RETURN TO BRUSSELS AND WILL REVIEW WITH DAVIGNON NORWEGIAN CONCERNS OVER LONG-TERM PROGRAM. HE WILL ALSO DISCUSS NORWEGIAN STATEMENT AT JANUARY 29 MEETING WITH DAVIGNON AS WELL AS POSSIBILITIES FOR MODIFICATION OF LONG-TERM PROGRAM AND FOR INSERTION OF NORWEGIAN RESERVATIONS AND EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS. SO FAR NORWAY HAS NOT INCLUDED ITS RESERVATIONS IN LONG-TERM AGREEMENT, BUT RAVNE SAID

HE HAD RESERVED RIGHT TO DO SO AFTER FURTHER STUDY OF PROGRAM AND OF CANADIAN AND OTHER STATEMENTS. NORWAY WILL DECIDE ON ITS POSITION FOR JANUARY 29 IEA MEETING AND WILL PREPARE TEXT OF ITS STATEMENT IN LIGHT OF BARTH'S DISCUSSIONS WITH DAVIGNON.;

4. RAVNE ALSO MENTIONED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED REPORT THAT EEC VICE PRESIDENT SIMONET HAD DOUBTS ABOUT (A) THE

CONCEPT OF THE MSP AS IT STANDS, AND (B) THE PACE AT WHICH ACCEPTANCE OF THE LONG-TERM PROGRAM IS BEING PUSHED, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE NEXT EEC MINISTERIAL IS NOT UNTIL FEBRUARY. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, RAVNE SAID, HE UNDERSTOOD SOMONET APPEARED TO FAVOR A LOW KEY,

RESERVED APPROACH TO THE LONG-TERM PROGRAM AT THE JANUARY 29 IEA MEETING. HE COMMENTED THAT U.S. APPEARED TO ATTACH MUCH GREATER URGENCY AND IMPORTANCE TO APPROVAL OF IEA PROGRAM AT JANUARY 29 MEETING THAN OTHER IEA MEMBERS.

5. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT EMBASSY BRUSSELS DISCUSS ISSUE WITH DAVIGNON BEFORE BARTH MEETS WITH HIM ON JANUARY 21. RAVNE HAS AGREED TO REVIEW WITH EMBASSY ON JANUARY 23 BARTH'S DISCUSSIONS WITH DAVIGNON.

6. RAVNE ALSO STILL PLANS TO STOP IN BRUSSELS ON WAY TO JANUARY 29 IEA MEETING AND REVIEW NORWEGIAN STATEMENT AND POSITION ON LONG-TERM PROGRAM WITH DAVIGNON. ON BASIS MY CONVERSATION WITH FRYDENLUND AND RAVEN, I BELIEVE NORWAY WILL TRY TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AND POSITIVE
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PAGE 03 OSLO 00326 201650Z

AS POSSIBLE AT JANUARY 20 MEETING.
BYRNE

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